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TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1912.

ROOSEVELT'S LAST WORD.

"We have justice and honesty on our side. We are warring against privilege, against social and industrial, we are warring for the elemental virtues of honesty and decency, of fair dealing as between man and man; we are warring to save the Republic, and the only reward we seek is to put our party in such shape that it shall be of the highest possible service to the people of the United States."

That was the burden of Roosevelt's final appeal last night to the Republicans at Chicago. Time can only reveal whether it is to rank as his most powerful plea as far as effect is concerned, but the utterance was palpably weak in comparison with the Carnegie Hall speech, and even the Columbus speech, as vulnerable as it was, was a stronger deliverance than last night's.

There was nothing novel in that speech; it was a summing up of the sweeping accusations and the herculean denunciations that have fallen from Roosevelt's lips since he threw his hat into the ring. He levels an indictment against all who are against him. Those who are for him are honest, and those who are not are dishonest. Those who have helped him are patriotic, and those who have not are unpatriotic. Those who have differed with him are wrong, and those who agree with him are right. The prominent political capitalists who have supported him are leaders, and those who have not are bosses. Those national committeemen who voted with him are decent men, and those who did not are not decent men. Those who sided with him are moral, and those who did not are immoral.

In the same old strain this personification of justice, honesty and righteousness protests his political immaculateness. Assuming all virtue and arrogating to himself all incorruptibility, he denounces his opponents for doing the very same things he has done. He charges that crooked business is behind Taft, but he does not deny the existence of a \$5,000,000 Roosevelt campaign fund raised in Wall Street, and he omits mention of Perkins, Fihn and Hanna, who follow in his train. In the face of the fact that the American people are aware of his stupendous inconsistency and his flimsy mendacity, he exhausts the vocabulary of hypocrisy in seeking to impale his foes. He claims that his eschewance is unswerving, but he deliberately ignores rumors of corruption in his behalf that have attained nation-wide currency.

The closing words of Roosevelt's speech must have been of the most solemn seriousness to his followers, but they are laughable in the light of the truth. No one for a moment believes that he has any idea of sacrificing himself or that he will be content to let some other "progressive" standard-bearer push to victory over his prostrate body. There was studied attempt at self-effacement in this last argument for the defense, but it will hardly close the eyes of any man to the fact that what this ambition-mad parasite is after is a monarchy of Roosevelt, by Roosevelt and for Roosevelt. "The loftiest of causes" is the personal cause of him who "during my lifetime" conspires to rule the American people. And the surpassing falsehood of all comes in the last line, when Theodore Roosevelt, who has falsified time and time again, who has befouled the names of good men, who has borne false witness against a legion, who has protected criminal corporations and criminal law-breakers, who has persecuted unjustly, who has defied authority, who has incited to bloodshed—when this man, the incarnation of misrepresentation, raises his hand to heaven and in the accents of holiness asserts, "We stand at Armageddon, and we battle for the Lord."

By a strange coincidence, in which there is much significant parallelism, the Republican National Convention meets to-day on the ninety-seventh anniversary of Waterloo. For the second time in world history looms up against the horizon red lit with the clouds of revolution the Man on Horseback. The ruthless hand of ambition is again uplifted menacingly by another, who, under the pretense of establishing a more popular government, would raise the triangle of empire. Is the second return from Elba on the ninety-seventh anniversary of the first fated also to end in failure? Is this wild egotist, with his imperial dream, to ride on across the face of a nation and substitute mobocracy for the majority and dictatorship for democracy? Or does the coincidence but augur the reappearance of another who, believing himself infallible, shall, too, hear the voice that thunders through all time, saying: "What is man that thou art mindful of him?"

PROTECT THE CITY.

The electric light and power franchise sought by the Richmond and Henric Railway Company should not be granted. The franchise does not

protect the interests of the city. It does not guarantee competition that will in the end bring any benefits to the consumers. If the recommendation of the Committee on Streets is acted upon, the ultimate result can only be either an increased cost of light and power to all consumers, both large and small, or a deterioration in service, or both. This is a vital matter. It means the gift of the city's streets for an end that will inevitably be to make the city's people pay back the rights thus given away by an increased cost of electricity. Richmond must not assume this burden. No other interest except the final good of the citizens should be considered. This good is the maximum of service at the minimum of cost.

We do not believe that competition in any form is the proper means of controlling public service corporations. But if it were, the franchise as at present framed does not guarantee even the possible immediate blessings promised. If this ordinance is passed, the Henric company will be forced to offer no competition outside of the profitable central district unless compelled to do so by an act of the Council. The franchise requires that it offer routes for the approval of the Council, not that it duplicate the present service. The company will naturally offer to furnish competition in the profitable central district. It will force the Virginia company to meet its competition here. As a result, the Virginia company will be forced to raise its rates to the unprofitable outlying districts, or fail to extend its service because of the cost of central competition. If the Council tries to force the new company to extend its service into the non-profitable territory, the effort can be contested in the courts. This is the expressed opinion of the Assistant City Attorney. This litigation can be continued through a long period of years. Meanwhile, the whole city will suffer through the failure of either company to extend its service. If the city wins this litigation in the end, the new company will be forced into a field which it now refuses to enter because it cannot afford to compete. If it cannot compete now, it cannot in the future, and the result will be its absorption by the Virginia company. Then the whole cost of its duplicated equipment, the litigation and all other charges will be added to the capital investment of the old company, and the consumer will be compelled to pay the interest on this burden. The courts have held that this extra charge is just.

Any competition the Henric company offers will result in a crippling of the ability of the present company to extend its lines or reduce its rates. Any competition the Henric company can be forced to offer will result in its absorption by the old company. And in each case the consumer, the city, the man who wants light and power, will be forced to pay all the costs. Nobody else will suffer. It will be the public.

The Council cannot afford to make a gift of the right to exact a tax from the people. The interests of the city are its sole concern. The final hope held out by this proposed franchise is that the city will be compelled to regulate two companies, or pay the cost. The present service is admitted to be adequate at a fair rate. Why not reserve the true right of regulation until it is demanded by conditions?

THE ALASKAN VOLCANOS.
 The eruption of the Alaskan volcano Katmai was not in itself startling to geologists, volcanologists and seismologists, since Katmai is one of the three great "slumbering" peaks of the earth's most volcanic region. Its violence is, however, admitted to be most startling, seeing that, so far as known, it has never given the trouble of its two companions, Hnaua and Redoubt. Eliminating the question of loss of life on Kodiak Island, which is reported to have been covered with two inches of ashes, and hoping the death toll has been exaggerated, the event is likely to prove intensely interesting from the scientific viewpoint, as bearing on the theories of the workings of nature in the Alaskan volcanic area.

Its relations to and effect, if any, upon those theories cannot but be thoroughly investigated and deeply studied by the three classes of scientists to which we have referred. The Alaskan and Alutian volcanic field embraces, in addition to the great peaks mentioned, and several minor ones, some fifty small "quivering" volcanoes, Katmai stands on the shore of the Alaskan peninsula, which stretches out towards the Aleutian Islands. The peninsula consists of a narrow tongue some 1,600 miles long and about twenty-five miles wide. Subterranean and submarine disturbances in this whole region are, comparatively speaking, almost continuous.

The Hodooff Islands, a little north of this line, were thrown up by volcanic action in 1794, and since then have, as to most of them, disappeared and reappeared at various intervals. Upon recent observations has been founded the theory that the subterranean disturbances in Alaska and the Aleutians have been steadily operating to raise the bottom of the Bering Sea, which is only a few fathoms down, and that in the not distant future the vast level floor will emerge to connect the Occident and the Orient, so that it may be walked over dryshod. Converts to that conclusion believe that it will then be possible to link with a great railroad causeway, after the fashion somewhat of the Florida, Keys road, the northern sections of America and Asia.

The Katmai eruption, as we have indicated, will doubtless be investi-

gated with reference to this conviction. Should the continuous phenomenon result in erasing Bering Sea and the strait, nothing is risked in saying that the engineering obstacles would by no means be insurmountable. The gradual upheaval, excluding loss of life that may have occurred and may occur, would have a most beneficial influence upon the world's history. It may all be Utopian, but there are still things in heaven and on earth and under the earth which are possible of subordination to human achievements and which are not dreamed of in our philosophy.

THE FLY-KILLING RECORD.
 Three-quarters of a million flies and more were destroyed in The Times-Dispatch fly-killing contest, which ended yesterday. The world's record for such a crusade was broken, and hereafter other cities will point to Richmond as a front rank fighter against this terrible and dangerous pest—the enemy plenipotentiary and ambassador extraordinary of plague and death. To the joy of a whole city, Sarah Johnson, the little Church Hill girl, who is endowed with so much energy and zeal, was victor with a lead of more than 110,000. In the last two days of her activity she gave mortal combat to 151,000 flies. The "Anxious Inquirer" who protested that Sarah Johnson had too much opposition to overcome was unduly alarmed, for she with great ease beat her opponents to a frazzle.

The real fight on the fly has just begun. The main object of the contest which has just closed was educational. It awakened interest in the untidy movement, and put on guard thousands of people who had never before regarded the fly as a source of pestilence and plague. Thousands of mothers have been stirred to a realization of the menace which the fly embodies to their babies. Thousands of children have found out that the fly must be killed. The newspapers throughout the State and elsewhere have given columns to warning against the musen domestica.

There must now be concerted community action against the fly. The women of the city must be enlisted in an effort to wipe out this fruitful source of sickness, and on all proper occasions there must be repeated the warning against the pests. The grand charge and the great onslaught are yet to come.

THE RIVER A PLAYGROUND.
 The Lynchburg Young Men's Christian Association has done a splendid thing for that city in furnishing an island campus in the James River for the use of the men and boys of the community. An otherwise useless tract of land in the middle of the river has been converted into a fine outdoor resort for the best kind of athletic amusements. Rowing and swimming will be only part of the attractions. In addition, fields for baseball, tennis and all the games that appeal to young men will be provided and equipped. The whole will add much to the pleasure and health of the entire city at a small cost.

The Richmond Association is pursuing the same admirable end by offering a summer camp for boys in the mountains. This will furnish an outing and excellent training in outdoor life to those who are able to participate in it. We heartily endorse the plan. But at the same time, we suggest that this city could profitably imitate the Lynchburg idea. The river playground offers a chance for fresh air and recreation right at the doors of those who need it most and who are often prevented by lack of time or money to enjoy the more extended pleasures of a camping trip. The youths who most need this kind of enjoyment are frequently those who cannot get it at any great expense. It should be the especial aim of the Y. M. C. A. to offer opportunities to this class.

The facilities in Richmond for a water-front recreation ground are just as fine as those in Lynchburg. The results in health and the development of better bodies and characters would amply repay the outlay of money demanded. Let the summer camp in the mountains be continued, but also let there be a permanent camp accessible in a few minutes and open nearly all the year for those whose vacation must be taken by the half day instead of by the week.

The girls in our town are hanging on the gates these days and looking very lovely, but they never flirt with transient people.

The times are about to give birth to a great literary classic—what Roosevelt will say when he is steam-rollered.

Blackberry rolls are ripe.

The doctrine of efficiency has about gone far enough when it wants to make roosters sit on the eggs.

"We expect to attend the meeting of the Virginia Press Association at Blue Ridge Springs in a very short time, and we request those of our patrons who are due us their subscription to please pay us at once, as we must have the money before our trip." Is the attorney righteous demand of the Orange Observer.

Reports from South Carolina indicate that the Palmetto State will not offer Coleman L. Follette Blaise as its favorite son for the Democratic vice-presidential nomination.

A scientist says that man is 75 per cent. water, but it is believed that Kentuckians are an exception to the rule.

There's many a slip 'twixt Chicago and the third cup of coffee.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

Our Ideas.
 Of a golden opportunity—Sitting next to a man with a diamond scarf pin during a dark scene in the theatre.
 Of a steady job—Trying to save up enough cigar coupons to get a 25-cent pipe.
 Of nothing to read—The ordinary 10-cent magazine.
 Of a stick in time—Leaving the house locked up just before the man arrives to read the gas meter.
 Of a miracle—Hearing a life insurance agent talk about anything else.
 Of a sad coincidence—Two back-splender buttons leaving at the same instant.
 Of a left-handed compliment—Letter from publishing house praising story, but rejecting it.

Face Track Information.
 A. E. W.—Yes, we think you can venture 25 cents on Portland Cement. They ought to win in a walk.
 Merry Widow—No, the bookmaker hasn't any George Barr McCutcheons on sale.

Angelina—The man who names the trotting horses is the same one who names the Pullman cars. He has the most vivid imagination and sense of invention in this country at the present time.
 Lottie Lee—We cannot publish your joke about the sulky. Mr. Hostetter's almanac scooped you on that away back in 1847.

Marguerite L.—They call him a good quarter horse because he is a good horse to bet a quarter on and no more.

Daisy—You ask us for a good place to put your money Friday. The best place we know of is in the bank.
 Any—Yes, they broke the track record Wednesday, but it was not a serious accident. They will not have to stop the races while they send and get a new one.

Avoid These.
 Automobile coming down the road with twelve-year-old kid at the wheel.
 Barbed wire fences. Go around if it's a mile.

Man who wants to tell you how to run your business. Ten to one he can't run his own.

Man who wants to give you something for nothing. There must be something in it for him.

Matron who has daughter who is taking singing lessons.

Gold mantle clocks if you want to catch a train.

Wedding cigars. The groom generally buys them last, when he is half out of silver.

Old faced old gentleman with mutton chop whiskers, plug hat and book under his arm.

Mince pie for breakfast.

Home-made shirts.

Folding chairs at funerals.

According to Uncle Abner.
 Some men are born foolish, while others wear their brains turned up at the bottom.

There is very little utter hopelessness in this world. Every man has a chance to be President some day unless perhaps it happens that he is a Democrat.

Cartoonist in vaudeville has simply got to draw well or lose his job.

Miss Pringle, proprietor of our millinery emporium, says competition is so fierce now-a-days that there ain't no more than 800 per cent. profit in trimmed hats any more, and she is thinking of going out of business.

It is getting so a feller can't carry home a jug of vinegar any more in this man's town, but what somebody starts a report that he is drinking terrible again, and ain't it too bad for his wife and family.

I see there is a feller in Cincinnati who has got a nose six inches long. He ought to belong to our local sewing circle.

William Hilliker has freshened up the codfish that has stood in front of his grocery for nine years by giving it a coat of white paint and anybody who would like nice fresh codfish will find no better place to buy it.

Amos Butts, livery, feed and sales stables, also undertaker, is about disgusted, as there ain't a doctor in the place now and nobody has died for eight months.

Sim Hicks has put chairs in his restaurant. Must be he is afraid the customers won't stand for the food.

Voice of the People

Praises Our Schools.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—At the request of a friend who is vitally interested in the public school system of to-day, I am sending you these few lines as being the conclusion arrived at after having read many "pros and cons" regarding the same. I have several times been a visitor to Randolph and Sidney schools and was highly pleased and gratified with the routine of studies and exercises in general. I cannot realize how or why any one should find fault or complaint about what our children are learning, either of mental or manual training. I wonder how many residents of the city remember the old laboratory schools which were established here soon after the war? Well, I attended one of them for a period of two months (and, by the way, I haven't been since). Now when you compare the methods and

the results of the two, you will find that the present system is far more efficient and more up-to-date than the old laboratory schools.

Yours truly,
 MRS. J. H. LONG.

The Weather Bureau All Right.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—A few days ago your paper published an article (Washington correspondence), the gist of which was a resolution for a special investigation of the Weather Bureau. Introduced into Congress by Hon. Theron Akin, of New York.

Probably many of your readers do not know that in pursuance of a general order of Congress last fall the administration of all departments and bureaus in Washington was made the subject of special inquiry by congressional committees. So far as this order of investigation is concerned, the Weather Bureau has been made a matter of record.

The record shows that the committee was especially careful to afford opportunity to any one desiring to file charges with it, or to appear before it in support of charges, and that it sought in various directions for evidence of lax, extravagant or inefficient methods. In the course of the inquiry the chairman, with several members of his committee, made a personal inspection of the operations of the Weather Bureau.

The committee also examined the financial transactions of the bureau for an extended period; communicated with the editors of newspapers in all parts of the country, seeking their views on the efficiency of the operations of the Weather Bureau; and wrote personal letters to representative citizens in various congressional districts. In fact,

the committee was so thorough in its investigation that it has been able to make a complete report to Congress.

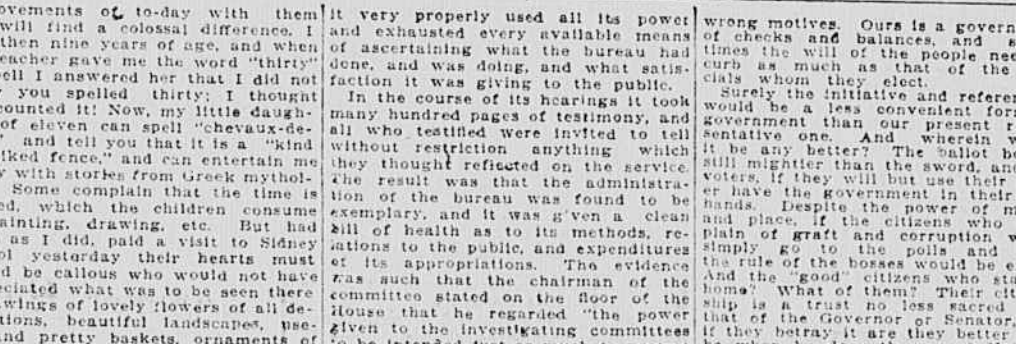
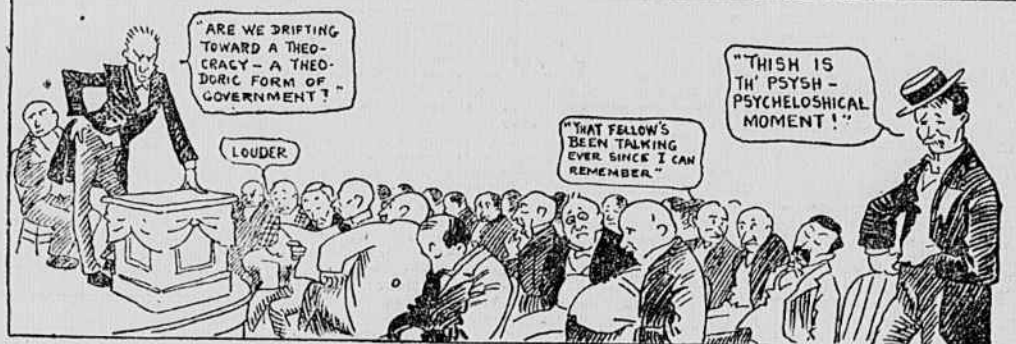
Some fellows haint afraid t' go in a saloon, but they haint a come out speakin' of her no more.

Pinky Kerr says he prefers th' girl with th' hardwood finish.

PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENT AT THE CONVENTION.

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright 1912. By John T. McCutcheon.)



improvements of to-day with them you will find a colossal difference. I was then nine years of age, and when my teacher gave me the word "theory" to spell I answered her that I did not know you spelled thirty; I thought you counted it! Now, my little daughter of eleven can spell "chevaux-de-frise" and you that it is a "kind of spiked fence" and can entertain me nicely with stories from Greek mythology. Some complain that the time is wasted, which the children consume in painting, drawing, etc. But had they as I did, paid a visit to Sidney School yesterday their hearts must indeed be callous who would not have appreciated what was to be seen there—drawings of lovely flowers of all descriptions, beautiful landscapes, useful and pretty baskets, ornaments of many kinds. But at the same time there hung on the walls beautiful samples of their lessons; also history, arithmetic, music, etc. So why should any one complain when none of their studies have been neglected? How the children's little hearts must have beat with delight as they listened to the merited and beautifully expressed words of commendation from the principal and teachers.

Something for them to remember; something for you, too, dear complaining father and mother, whose ideas of "frills" is so much exaggerated, for neither you nor I know how soon the little hand that wielded the brush so lovingly and triumphantly will be gently folded forever out of your sight—forever on earth—and sadly you will miss the tripping feet of your darling girl or boy, the sweet little voice piping its melodies, and you will feel heart-broken. Now, think of it! Were to-day the same as years ago you would have nothing of his or her voice, and you would not see or hear his or her smiling face, and you would not be able to master the difficult sums, or the heartaches which were occasioned by the rod or the stern teacher's frown as a punishment for their inability to be perfect days with the studies. Contrast those days with the present! Here, you say now, is a picture drawn by my little boy—a lovely wreath of forget-me-nots. Here, too, is his little birdhouse he made at school.

Would not that be some comfort to you? Or here you say, my little girl's lessons, her music, her little flowers and birds drawn by her little hands, which are now so pitifully still, find comfort there for you, together with the knowledge that their teachers were kind and loving and loved them? I think instead of finding fault we should enter into hearty cooperation with principal and teachers. I for one shall greet the ensuing session with a renewed interest, determined to assist them in every possible manner which lies in my power, and should there be a call for additional "frills" shall unhesitatingly help to furnish the "lace."

Grateful Travelers.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—The executive board, in charge of the arrangements for the recent meeting of the Grand Council, United Commercial Travelers of America, beg to extend to you their thanks for your co-operation and help in making the convention such a splendid success.

CHAS. WRIGHT, Secretary.

For Bryan Just One More Time.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Don't be too hard on Mr. Roosevelt. He is only trying to hamper the progress of the progressive policies that Mr. Bryan is advocating for so many years. Give him the credit of having brains enough to tell good things when he speaks it, and courage enough to attempt making his own party take hold of it.

In my humble opinion Bryan, Roosevelt and Wilson are the political tripartite of the United States. Their policies are just a little ahead of the times, but we will catch up with them after a while, and then be thankful for the advice.

Our only hope is Bryan. If the Baltimore convention will only nominate him for President and Wilson for Vice-President of the ways. One road will once more step into power.

I have voted the Democratic ticket thirty-nine years, and hope to have the opportunity to vote for Bryan once more. I am nothing but a farmer, no politician.

J. HARPER ALEXANDER, SR.

The Fly.
 He wadeth in the gravy and he jumpeth in the soup.
 He walketh the rim of your coffee cup and dives in with a swoop.
 And when anything is served that's extra nice and hot,
 You can always count on Mr. Fly's being Johnny-on-the-spot.

He comes in early springtime and 'way late in fall.
 You see him in a dazed way clinging to the wall.
 And no doubt nothing in his soul that he is "up agin' it."

As he thinks of all your nice, good things and no chance of jumpin' in it.

O, ye Edisons, ye scientists, hurry up and make an airship that'll fly so fast it will make the natives quake.
 So I can wash my face and pack my grip and light up the cigar, and hunt and hunt till I find a world where there are not any flies!

Richmond. "BILLY DOCK."

The Parting of the Ways.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—The American people stand at the parting of the ways. One road leads to a better government, greater respect for law, increased stability of democratic institutions. The other leads to greater power in the hands of one man, to servile courts, to changing, perhaps the destruction of laws which have been proven to be wise. In all ages men have learned the danger of judges whose position is on their master's whim, and that under the law of recall the master is many instead of one hardly changes the situation, for men are easily swayed by the impulse of the moment.

Likewise they are human as much as the judges whom they condemn, and as likely as they to act from

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Cattle Ships.
 Can you tell me where I may get information as to sailing of cattle boats from United States ports to Europe and as to likelihood of college students securing places as helpers for the voyage?
 WILLIAMSBURG.

A letter to Kingan Company, Richmond, Va., would probably bring you the information about the boats. The Kingan office here has no sort of connection with the matter, but it contains men well informed on almost every subject connected with the meat industry and courteous enough to be willing to "help along" whether the action sells them a bill of meat or not.

Millionaire Farmer.
 Is there a millionaire farmer in Virginia?
 Several.
 R. P. SIMS.

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